

February 24, 2004

**Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**Meadow Park Subdivision
2120 Piner Road, Santa Rosa, WDID No. 1B0014WNSO
Sonoma County**

On December 11, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Golden Bear Biostudies, on behalf of Mr. Frank Rezende of FEDCO, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Meadow Park project located at 2120 Piner Road, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. The application was deemed complete on January 9, 2003. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with seasonal wetland habitat within the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Sub Area 114.22 and the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project site is located at 2120 Piner Road, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California (APN 036-011-044). The purpose of the project is to construct a residential subdivision, consisting of one and two story single family dwellings. The proposed project consists of build-out of the 6.12-acre site. Charles Patterson, Wetland Ecologist, conducted a wetland delineation to determine the presence of waters of the United States on the Meadow Park Subdivision project site in 1997, resulting in a total of 1.33-acres of jurisdictional wetland habitat. The proposed project would result in the filling of all 1.33-acres of wetland habitat on the site.

Charles Patterson conducted surveys for special-status plant species from 1990 to 1998. Survey results indicated the presence of several special-status plant species at the project site. The federally listed endangered species, Burke's goldfields (*Lasthenia burkei*), historically occurred at the project site based on 1990 and 1991 plant surveys. Surveys conducted in 1993, 1994, 1995 (C. Patterson), and 1998 (Marco Waaland – Golden Bear Biostudies) were unsuccessful in detecting Burke's goldfields.

Based on the current condition and configuration of the site's wetlands, the applicant stated that the wetland areas do not provide good habitat for any sensitive species. Past agricultural activity and soil manipulation has altered the wetland area's microtopography, hydrology, and vegetative cover. Based on these land-use changes and the lack of any recent observations of Burke's goldfields, it appears that this species has disappeared from this site. According to the applicant, it does not seem likely that this (or any other) sensitive wetland species are likely to recolonize at the project site.

Baker's navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *bakeri*), a species of special concern, has been documented at the site. One small colony of this species (about 25 plants) has been observed in the southeastern depression in most years it was surveyed (Patterson, 1995). It also was observed in 1998 (Waaland, personal observation). According to the applicant this plant is

relatively widespread and often locally abundant on the Santa Rosa Plain, but occurs on List Ib of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare Plants in California (1994). It has no official state or federal status, but has been depleted by habitat reduction and degradation throughout its range.

A total of 1.33-acres of jurisdictional wetlands will be impacted during the development of the proposed project. Mitigation in the form of wetland creation credits and endangered plant preservation credits have been purchased by the project applicant. To compensate for the loss of special-status plant species habitat, the applicant has purchased endangered plant preservation credits equal to 1.35-acres at the Wright Preservation Bank (aka Cramer Bank). Wetland creation credits equal to 1.35-acres have been purchased from the Southwest Santa Rosa Vernal Pool Preservation Bank (aka Engle Bank). Proof of purchase documents have been submitted.

The proposed mitigation measures are consistent with the requirements of the Programmatic Consultation from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). According to Mr. Frank Rezende, non-compensatory mitigation measures, including post-construction storm water treatment controls and erosion control Best Management Practices will be incorporated into the development project in order to decrease potential detrimental impacts associated with storm water runoff from the developed site. Treated storm water runoff will be collected on site via an existing underground storm drain system.

On August 19th 2002, the Santa Rosa City Council authorized the rezoning of the project site (Meadow Park) from Rural Residential District to Single Family Residential District. The Council determined the reclassification as being consistent with the Santa Rosa General Plan (File number REZ01-018). The City of Santa Rosa, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which was approved by the Council of the City of Santa Rosa on August 12, 2003 (Resolution No. 25738).

The project is scheduled to begin as soon as the permit conditions are finalized anticipated to be spring 2004 and be completed by the end of the summer 2004-construction season. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.